



University of Groningen

Preface

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Published in:
Applied Surface Science

DOI:
[10.1016/j.apsusc.2013.04.055](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsusc.2013.04.055)

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Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2013

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Ali, N., & Hosson, J. T. M. D. (2013). Preface. Applied Surface Science, 275, 1-1.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsusc.2013.04.055>

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Preface

The International Conference on Surfaces, Coatings and Nanostructured Materials (NANOSMAT) has rapidly established itself to become a premier conference in the field of materials science, engineering, technology, nanoscience and nanotechnology. Since 2005, it has been very successfully organised in several European countries, including Portugal, Spain, Italy, France and also in USA and in China.

The 7th NANOSMAT was successfully organised in Prague, Czech Republic during 18–21 September 2012. The conference attracted 500 abstracts and some 300 delegates belonging to 52 countries of the world. The conference fostered the gathering of talented and truly international people to exchange novel ideas, shared new knowledge and technical know-how in the broad fields of nanoscience and technology.

The oral talks were conducted in four parallel sessions, whereas, the posters were presented during the poster sessions held on each of the three days. SYMPOSIA, included Nanomaterials, Surface, Science, Engineering and Technology, Energy, Nano-Medicine and Nano-Biotechnology, Carbon based Nanostructures.

Key HIGHLIGHTS include: 2012 NANOSMAT Prize, NANOSMAT Lecture, Young Scientist Lecture Competition, Poster Competition, Technical Workshops, Exhibition, Special Sessions, Poster Sessions and Tutorials. In addition, there were a host of invited speakers from worldwide who lectured on different aspects of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology.

The prestigious NanoSmat Prize 2012, the highest recognition for achievements in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology by the Nanosmat community, was awarded in 2012 by a panel of judges to Professor Morinobu Endo, Shinshu University, Japan. On this occasion, he presented the plenary lecture, entitled: "State-of-the-art science and applications of carbon nanotubes: Towards the safe innovation".

We had received around 135 manuscripts for this special issue of *Applied Surface Science*. The papers were all peer reviewed and the reviewing processes was under responsibility of the following team of Guest editors: Professor Jeff Th. M. De Hosson (chair), Nasar Ali, Giuseppe Fierro, Mahmood Aliofkhazraei, Mircea Chipara. After peer review close to 60 papers were accepted for publication in *Applied Surface Science*.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their support in making NANOSMAT-7 a great success and in particular Elsevier making this special issue possible for the international nanoscience and nanotechnology community.

Chair

Dr. Nasar Ali

UK

Co-chair

Prof. Jeff Th. M. De Hosson

The Netherlands